MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 JANUARY 1981

American Hostages

Speaking about the negotiations for the release of the U.S. hostages at a press conference reported by Tehran radio and PARS, Minister of State Behzad Nabavi said Algeria has presented some new proposals to Iranian officials, agreeing "to receive an undertaking" on behalf of Iran and the United States to solve the outstanding problems. Nabavi went on to say that Iran is currently studying the Algerian proposals but denied asking the United States for further clarifications of its latest offer. The minister added that if the United States "procrastinates" and does not give a "positive response," the hostages will stand trial.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Mashhad Demonstration--AFP, citing the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, reported that "tens of thousands of people" demonstrated in favor of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in the eastern city of Mashhad on 5 January. The pro-Bani-Sadr newspaper said the demonstration came in response to a speech by Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti that praised the military offensive but did not mention President Bani-Sadr.

Nabavi on Economy--In a Tehran radio interview Minister of State Nabavi admitted Iran's economic problems have increased as a result of economic sanctions and the war with Iraq, however, he said economic sanctions have been "useful" for Iran since they have made the government harden its resolve to break Iran's dependence on international markets controlled by foreign powers and companies. The government is reviewing the role of assembly industries, he said, and also aims to reduce its own expenditure and improve the lot of the "oppressed class" of society. Nabavi denied that Iran's programs of economic mobilization are communist inspired and said the government's determination to distribute resources fairly is based on Islamic principles.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran and Iraq have made conflicting claims on the success of the latest Iranian offensive. Tehran radio continues to report widespread victories along the entire front including Gilan-e Gharb and the surrounding heights of the Kabir Kuh mountains but noted "hand-to-hand and face-to-face fighting" in Chahar-Band and Darvaru. Iranian Air Force planes hit Iraqi targets at Fakkah and Hamid, the radio said, while Iranian artillery fire ranked Iraqi positions along the Mahshahr-Abadan and Darkhovin-Mared axes.

An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, said that war in general means "an attack and a counterattack, a loss and a counterloss" and played down the Iranian offensive "on a front a few kilometers in width" while the Iraqi Army continues to hold a 100-km-long front inside Iran. The communique stressed that Iraqi forces continue to maintain their strong positions around Susangerd and have destroyed an Iranian armored brigade including 51 tanks. Other Iraqi communiques reported by the radio and INA described further operations by Iraqi forces against the remnants of the Iranian offensive around Ahvaz, Dezful and Abadan.

Kurdish Situation

Tehran radio reported renewed clashes between revolution guards and "counterrevolutionaries" near Saqqez and Mahabad at the end of December and early in January. The Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio has claimed that the government has imposed an "economic siege" on Kordestan. The radio also denied "rumors" that the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) will proclaim an independent republic of Kordestan on 22 January. The KDP has no such step in mind, the radio said, but wants only to secure "genuine self-rule" for the Kurdish people.

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin again met with Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz and Education Minister Zvulun Hammer in an attempt to reach a compromise over the 'Etzyoni report, which recommended salary increases for teachers. The radio added, however, that agreement has still not been reached.

Jordan

In a speech to a symposium at Jordan University, reported by PETRA-JNA, King Husayn reiterated his support for the right of Palestinians to exercise self-determination and form an independent state. There are "no other options acceptable to Jordan," he said, "nor is there any substitute" for the PLO.

An unattributed commentary by Amman radio dismisses the tour of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as "an application for employment, with the recommendation of friends in Cairo and Tel Aviv," to enable him to return to the region that "he himself split and ruined with his policy during the Ford administration."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DOST RECEIVES VISITING INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY

LD071530 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA minister of foreign affairs, met with R. Sathe, foreign secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India, at his office today. During the meeting topics of mutual interest were discussed and views were exchanged on the coming meeting of nonaligned foreign ministers scheduled to be held in New Delhi in the near future. R. Sathe arrived in Kabul this morning on a friendly visit. He was welcomed by some high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kabul International Airport.

DOST ATTENDS IRAQI ARMY ANNIVERSARY SOIREE

LD072006 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] The 62d anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army has celebrated in the Kabul intercontinental Hotel last night at a soiree given by the Iraqi military attache in Kabul. Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost, the commander in chief of the armed forces, a number of high-ranking officers and government officials and some ambassadors and military attaches of friendly countries were present.

RATEBZAD RETURNS TO KABUL FROM INDIAN VISIT

LD071726 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan [DWOA] and chairman of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization, returned to Kabul from New Delhi last night.

Dr Ratebzad was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Dr Saleh Mohammad Zirah and Nur Ahmad Nur, secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, members of the party Central Committee Politburo and members of the Revolution Council Presidium; Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the party Central Committee Politburo, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister; a number of members of the Central Committee and the Revolution Council; and some members of the DWOA leadership and members of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.

Dr Anahita Ratebzad went to India last week at the invitation of the National Women's Federation of India to participate in the 10th congress of the regional advisory meeting on problems concerning women in the region, the role of women in the strengthening of peace and their struggle for the transformation of the Indian Ocean region into a peace zone.

Dr Anahita Ratebzad held a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, during which she handed over Karmal's message of good will to the Indian leader.

JUSTICE MINISTER ARIAN TALKS WITH BRITISH MP'S

LD071727 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] 'Abdorrashid Arian, deputy prime minister, minister of justice and attorney general, received a British parliamentary delegation this afternoon at his office. At this meeting topics of interest were discussed.

The British parliamentary delegation, which came to Kabul at the invitation of the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organization, met this morning with Dr Mehraboddin Paktiwal, deputy of the National State Planning Committee [previously, ministry of planning]. The deputy of the National State Planning Committee gave the British parliamentary delegation information about development plans in Afghanistan and the past and present economic situation in the country.

DEPUTY MINISTER, NOT DEPUTY PREMIER DEFECTED

BK071031 Hong Kong AFP in English 1014 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] New Delhi, 7 Jan (AFP)--A deputy minister in Afghanistan with a surname as Deputy Premier 'Abdorrashid Arian defected to Pakistan last month and that resulted in misleading reports that the latter fled the country, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

It was 'Aziz Arian, deputy minister of education, who defected to Pakistan, and not Mr 'Abdorrashid Arian, the sources said. Newspaper reports in Pakistan quoting "reliable sources" had reported on 29 Dec that 'Abdorrashid Arian had fled the country and was rumoured to be in Pakistan. Kabul radio denied the the report following day and broadcast a statement of Mr Arian who called the newspaper report "low inventions" and "lying propaganda." Mr Arian also appeared on Kabul television on 31 Dec to dismiss the reports.

The sources here could not give further details on Mr 'Aziz Arian who actually defected to Pakistan. The sources also discounted rumours that interior Minister Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy was under arrest. Mr Arian, Mr Golabzoy, Mohammad Rafi, minister of national defence, and Nazar Mohammad, minister of public works, were all seen in the Afghan capital last week the sources said.

L'HUMANITE CORRESPONDENT TOURS BORDER PROVINCES

Visit to Konarha

LD071119 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 25 Dec 80 p 4

[Regis Aubier dispatch: "Start of a Revival in Konar"]

[Excerpt] [Barkande] December--Maj (Farouq Shah), military chief of Konarha Province, told me that for 6 months the 60th Division has had 5 regiments of 450 men; he pointed out their locations on a map.

The army has a threefold mission. First, it has to maintain the calm which has been restored to the valleys since last spring. There are no longer any organized rebel gangs in the area. There are just a few small groups that try to move arms to the interior and occassionally launch attacks.

Since the 20 or so routes which lead to Pakistan can all be used as infiltration routes, small observation posts have been set up on the high ground. The authorities count on the "Committees for the Defense of the revolution" and on the population's participation to stop the infiltration.

A Soviet battallion provides helicopters for air transport and support in major operations. From what I observed, there is not very much activity in this sector.

The army also has a political role. The army, a peasant army amid a peasant population and, in Afghanistan's circumstances, the tool for the revolutionary seizure of power, has been reorganized since 27 December and is taking part in the task of explaining and convincing people [about the revolution] and consolidating or reestablishing the administration.

Finally, the army has to aid a poor population that lives in a province with real potential. At present, the main tasks are irrigation and medical assistance. Since there are no doctors or hospitals in the valley, health care is provided by the army services and, if that proves inadequate, the sick are transported to the provincial capital or to Jalalabad, which is better equipped than Asadabad.

Restoring Economic Activities

At the same time, steps have been taken to revive economic activities and to start the development plans which Governor (Kader Miakhil) discussed with me. The colonel had been dismissed by Amin. His dynamism and his ability to communicate with people have made him a valuable tool in the recovery. He said there was a lack of arable land, and only one small timber-processing factory and 15 km of paved roads for an area of around 6,000 square km. In addition to the distribution of Soviet aid--clothes, shoes, blankets, foodstuffs--and to seed and fertilizer being given free or sold at low prices, two irrigation canals, destroyed by the counterrevolutionaries, have been rebuilt.

During a recent visit by a village development program delegation, 18 agriculture development projects were drawn up, ranging from digging irrigation canals to improving the damaged track which runs along the (Paich). This is a first step which, together with medical programs and the struggle against illiteracy, are improving things for the peasant masses.

In the long term, the intensification of agricultural production, the improvement of stockraising by opening a new veterinary unit, the development of crafts (work with precious stones), and the birth of industry are necessary because of rural overpopulation. Next year will see the revival of old projects, which were shelved, such as a small multipurpose dam that will be able to meet all current energy needs, and a paper pulp factory. Indeed, timber is one of Konarha's resources which should supply the basis for crafts and industry, provided some slopes are replanted, and poplar plantations and a forestry research center are set up.

While the security situation is still not perfect in Konarha, which borders Pakistan, there is no particular tension in the region. Moreover, there is less talk of fighting than of pacification and development.

Situation in Qandahar

LD071641 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 30 Dec 80 p 4

[Regis Aubier dispatch: "Qandahar: Improving a Difficult Situation"]

[Text] Qandahar, December--According to foreign radio stations and press agencies, Qandahar is experiencing regular clashes, so much so that a section of the city is in the counterrevolutionaries' hands. By day life is normal; there is the hubbub and idleness of underdeveloped areas, in the old districts and in the bazaars, in what is wrongly called downtown Qandahar of around the (Kherka Mobarak), the shrine which contains the prophet's clothes. The nights, of course, are noisy.

There is good reason to describe the situation in detail, especially since I am, as far as I know, the only French correspondent to have visited the southern Afghan capital and to have moved around in it recently.

Three facts strike me as certain. First, at the risk of harping on this subject, there are no bombardments of the city or the surrounding district. The only clashes which I have heard of took place in the border district of (Spin Boldak) and only a small number of troops were involved.

The role of the Soviet troops, who do not participate in the curfew here, is clearly defined: deterrence with regard to Pakistan and logistical aid and support for large-scale operations.

Finally, my impression is that pitched battles were not taking place when night fell but, rather, localized exchanges which are made worse on both sides by a tendency to be trigger-happy as if bursts of gunfire were better than one well-aimed shot.

The situation has not always been like this. At the beginning of last January Qandahar experienced events similar to those seen in the capital on 22 and 23 February. For nights on end people shouted "God is great," then "Death to the Soviets" and, on the fourth evening, "Death to Karmal."

By refraining from using the repressive methods which the Amin regime regularly used, however, and by patience, the government succeeded in scoring points, although still modest ones, according to 'Abdolmajid Sarboland who is in charge of the southern zone: "When I arrived a little over 3 months ago, the situation in Qandahar was worrying. Security could not even be guaranteed during the day and comrades could not go into the bazaar. I remember my first night when there were real fireworks. At that time the adversary had the initiative and the advantage."

Thanks to the reorganization of the state bodies, the distribution of Soviet material aid, economic incentives, the reestablishment of contacts with the population and the adoption of a political approach, considerable progress has been made, as I was able to see as I went around the city.

The solution of the present difficulties requires the consolidation of the state machine, the strengthening of the democratic organizations and greater unity in the party. In Qandahar, as in the rest of the country however, the authorities refuse to use force first and to resort to repression, although the situation is still not satisfactory.

A political struggle is being waged to separate the reactionary leaders from those who for various reasons they have succeeded in leading. Even more than that, the aim is to have discussions and a dialogue to restore confidence.

Since I complained one afternoon that I had not had the opportunity to visit the rural districts, a gaunt man, imperturbably calm in his manner, proposed that I do so immediately. We set off in a tourist automobile accompanied by one soldier. We visited three villages in (Wolesvali) or (Daman) canton. We talked with the peasants, listened to their comments, took note of their requests and, as the time for the fourth prayers of the day was approaching, we had to refuse several invitations to take tea.

On our return we stopped in the main city in the region, which houses the extremely rustic offices of the tax department, the police and the social service department of the qazi, who can be compared to a justice of the peace.

"Some 3 months ago, when I took office as (Woleswal)" Comrade 'Abdol Zaher told me, "there was no longer any administrative center. It was ensconsed in an apartment in Qandahar. (Kera Kelai), the 'Village on the Mountain' which we have just visited, was a positive den of counterrevolution." He added quietly, with the same imperturable calm: "Give me the most dangerous canton in this province, which is considered to be a problem area, and in 6 months calm will be restored. I come from this region. The peasants here are excellent people who must be respected and heeded. It is with them that we must work and will be able to build."

Meeting of Tribal Chiefs

LD071609 [Editorial Report] Paris L'HUMANITE in French on 3 January 1981 carries on page 4 a Regis Aubier Kabul dispatch in which he describes a meeting of (Safi) tribal chiefs in (Barkande). The (Barkande) meeting was reportedly addressed by Governor (Kader Miakhil) and Deputy Minister for the Borders (Meftahuddin Safi) who reviewed the crimes committed under the monarchy and in Amin's days. Three tribal chiefs apparently spoke out against the treatment they received under Amin's regime. The meeting then decided to go to Kabul to talk with Afghan Premier Babrak Karmal, a meeting which Aubier attended. Aubier concludes by saying that as a result of that meeting the "tribe will now give its full support to the government and will fight infiltrations by reactionary elements."

DIPLOMATS TRAVEL TO DRA, NONALIGNED COUNTRIES

BK071555 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] India's Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe had a meeting with Afghanisan's Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost in Kabul today. They discussed matters of mutual interest with particular reference to the forthcoming foreign ministers conference of nonaligned countries to be held in New Delhi. Mr R.D. Sathe is visiting some nonaligned capitals as one of the special envoys in connection for the nonaligned foreign ministers conference.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that Ramesh Bhandari, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, has gone to some of the Arab countries which include Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. (Dharey Khan), joint secretary in the ministry, who is to be the secretary general of the foreign ministers conference has gone to Belgrade and Algiers. Mr S.K. Singh, additional secretary is going to Kuwait, Libya, Syria and Jordan, while some other senior officials are likely to visit other countries.

INDIA, BANGLADESH DIFFER ON SHARING OF GANGES

BK071614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] India today told Bangladesh that its outright rejection of the Indian proposal for augmenting the dry-season flow of the Ganges amounts to going against the letter and spirit of the 1977 Farakka agreement.

Speaking at the opening session of the second intergovernmental meeting in New Delhi to review the 1977 interim agreement, Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh pointed out that the main thrust of the agreement was to solve the issue bilaterally. Rao Birendra Singh, who is leading the Indian side, said the argument advanced by Bangladesh shows that it had no intention of arriving at a jointly-agreed solution within 3 years as laid down in the agreement. He said that, unfortunately, from the very beginning Bangladesh has been preventing the joint rivers commission from even beginning the study of the proposals to find a solution. He said our problems are most pressing and India can hardly afford to waste time and engage in futile exercises. Rao Birendra Singh suggested that the review exercises should be ended and a report finalized at the next meeting to be held within a month from now.

Referring to the Indian proposal for the Ganges-Brahamputra link canal and Bangladesh's objection to it, the agriculture minister said the proposal was based on detailed explorations and investigations. Unfortunately, Bangaldesh did not study the data on a scientific and rational basis to come to conclusions.

Bangladesh Minister for Power and Water Resources Kazi Anawarul Haq, who is the leader of his country's delegation, said Bangladesh had accepted as an interim arrangement a quantum of water as its share which is 40 percent less than the flows entitled to it. He claimed that his country's stand on the manner of involvement of Nepal in the study of augmenting the dry-season flow of the Ganges is reasonable.

ZIAUL HAQ CLARIFIES OFFER OF UN TALKS ON DRA

LD071709 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Shahid Urakzi report: "The Pakistani president: 'No Change in Our Stand on the Afghan Crisis, one Soviet Withdrawal Is Only Solution'"]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT--Pakistani President Ziaul Haq has denied that Pakistan's recent initiative to hold discussions with Kabul under UN auspices constitutes a change in Pakistan's principled stand on the Afghan crisis.

After opening an international symposium on the economies of Islam held under the supervision of the King 'Abd al-'Aziz University and the Pakistani Government, the Pakistani president told journalists: "Our initiative will raise the issue without jeopardizing our stand."

President Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan wishes a solution to the Afghan problem, which "confronts us and all the Islamic and other peoples in the Free World." He added that such a solution must be consistent with the wishes of the people of Afghanistan and ensure the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland.

Last week, Pakistan urged the UN secretary general to arrange a dialogue between Islamabad, Tehran and the PDPA in accordance with the UN General Assembly recommendation. A UN spokesman has been quoted as saying that the secretary general is still holding the necessary consultations to appoint a special envoy in an attempt to seek a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani president expressed his support for this initiative and said: The options must remain open. He added that he is in favor of adopting a stand, adding that it is too early to comment on the question of recognizing the regime in Kabul. Asked if Kabul is insisting on recognition before holding a dialogue, President Ziaul Haq said: "We are not so naive." He added that Pakistan's recent initiative enjoys the support of the Islamic states bloc and a total of 111 states which voted in favor of the UN resolution.

Regarding his visit to Turkey and Kuwait and a number of Gulf states next week, the Pakistani president said that his visit aims at promoting a unified stand on principal issues before the heads of the Islamic states hold their third summit conference. He said that discussions to end the hostilities in the Gulf were continuing, but he did not elaborate on this.

SHAHI DENIES BLAME FOR TENSION IN INDIAN RELATIONS

BK081058 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has said that Pakistan fully reciprocates the desire expressed by Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi for friendship between India and Pakistan. In an interview with the correspondent of the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA in Islamabad yesterday, he said that Pakistan has always been ready for a dialogue to harmonize our respective perceptions and to strengthen the entire region against the danger of interference by foreign powers on the basis of nonaggression, noninterference, sovereign equality and good neighborliness.

Agha Shahi said if there has been a setback to Pakistan-India relationships, certainly the fault does not lie in Pakistan. He said Pakistan's occasional reference to its recognized position in regard to the existence of the Jammu and Kashmir issue and the need to find a just and honorable solution through the continuation of the Simla process constituted no violation of the Simla agreement and was in fact fully in conformity with its spirit.

NABAVI ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON HOSTAGES, OTHER ISSUES

LD071726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1650 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] According to PARS, engineer Behzad Nabavi, minister of state in charge of executive affairs and government spokesman, today gave a press conference and answered questions from domestic and foreign correspondents. Concerning the role of Algerian Embassy in connection with the hostages, Mr Nabavi said: The Algerian delegation came to Tehran on Friday and submitted new proposals in the form of a statement [e'lamiyyeh] on behalf of the Algerian Government to the Iranian officials. In these proposals the Algerian Government has agreed to receive an undertaking [ta'ahhod] on behalf of the Iranian and American Governments. [Tehran in English to Europe at 1930 GMT on 7 January translates the word "ta'ahhod" as "guarantees" instead of "undertaking." Tehran PARS in English at 0756 on 8 January also uses the word "undertaking." "Undertaking" or "commitment" would be the more common translation of "ta'ahhod" in this context.]

This matter is being discussed and investigated at the moment and the result will be announced subsequently.

In answer to a question concerning Washington's announcement that Iran has asked America to make its proposals clearer, Mr Nabavi said: We have not made such a proposal to America. The issue is at the moment being studied and if America accepts the conditions of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and gives us sufficient guarantees, the hostages will be released. He added: If America procrastinates and does not give a positive response the hostages will be tried.

He was asked: The UAE in a letter to the United Nations has claimed ownership of the three Islands. What is Iran's position concerning this matter? Mr Nabavi said: The Iranian Government has had some discussions with the UAE Government in this regard and has warned it about the interference of American imperialism in the region. It has been asked not to get involved in this matter and to prevent the American conspiracy in the region.

Concerning purges in the departments and the fate of those employees whose position has not yet been decided, the government spokesman said: A bill is being studied about the cleaning up of the departments and after it is approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly these problems will be solved.

Tehran English Report

LD072050 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Excerpts] PARS reports that Mr Behzad Navavi, minister of state in executive affairs and the government spokesman, today attended a press conference and replied to the questions put to him by local and foreign newspapers.

Regarding the assistance of the reactionary regimes of the region rendered to the Iraqi Government, the spokesman of the Iranian Government said: Iran has repeatedly warned these states that the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran will take the necessary measures when the time requires. On the question of the possibility of Iran's participation at the Islamic conference scheduled to be held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, Mr Nabavi said: Iran will never attend the conference if Saddam Husayn takes part in this conference.

Regarding the purchase of weapons and ammunition from abroad, Mr Nabavi said: Arms consist of the strategic gifts, and the superpowers which are the main producers and suppliers of such goods would not put them at the disposal of other countries easily. Therefore, he added, Iran will not buy arms from those countries which require certain obligations and, in his words, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is seeking sources of arms purchase which do not depend Iran on others. [as heard]

PARS English Report

JN081223 Tehran PARS in English 0756 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The minister of state in executive affairs and government spokesman, Behzad Nabavi, in a press conference yesterday morning answered questions posed by foreign and domestic reporters.

Mr Nabavi was asked to comment on the report that Washington has claimed that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has ruled that the American reply is ambiguous. He replies, "we have not asked the United States for clarification. The hostages issue falls under the responsibility of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis), and whenever the conditions posed by the Majlis are accepted and if we have adequate assurances concerning the American commitments, the hostages will be released. But if the U.S. wants to drag out the issue by procrastination and failing to offer positive reply the Iranian nation's American hostages will be tried."

In reply to a question regarding the United Arab Emirates claim stated in a letter to the United Nations to ownership of three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, Mr Nabavi said, "The Iranian Government has talked with UAE officials warning (?them not) to get involved in the U.S. imperialist plots in the region."

Regarding the assistance being given to Iraq by the reactionary governments of the Persian Gulf region, the government spokesman said, "We have given them strong warnings in this connection and, if necessary, the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the military authorities will take necessary actions."

Speaking about the forthcoming Islamic conference in Saudi Arabia, Nabavi said, "If Saddam Husayn participates in this conference we shall not and, as we have been informed, Saddam has decided to attend the conference, so we shall not be there."

Asked about the guarantee communicated through by [as received] the Algerian Government regarding the solution of the hostage crisis, Mr Nabavi said, "The Algerian delegation arrived in Tehran last Friday and handed Iranian officials new proposals in the form of a statement from the Algerian Government which announces its readiness to receive an undertaking from the Iranian and the U.S. Government. This issue is presently under study and the results will be announced subsequently.

Commenting on the purchase of goods, including armaments from foreign countries, the minister of state [as received] said, "Weapons and ammunitions are strategic goods and since the superpowers are the main manufacturers of such weapons, therefore they will not supply us with such equipments readily. If they stipulate certain conditions in this connection, then we will not purchase arms from them."

Concerning the multiplicity of power centers in the country, the government spokesman said, "The multiplicity of power centres is not a problem for our government. All revolutionary institutions and organisations maintain close cooperation with the government and there is nothing in the country hidden from the government."

Replying to the question in connection with the attacks against newspaper offices in the provinces and also on the attack against the office for the people's cooperation with the president, Nabavi said, "We should not worry the people's mind with such issues. If any office is attacked somewhere the security officials will perform their legal duty in this respect.

Regarding the spread of rumours by some capitalists who are unhappy with the government's policy regarding vital commodities, and imports and exports, the spokesman said, "Whenever the government decides to play a more active role in the economic field the profiteers and those individuals who prefer noninterference by government in the economy show their distaste. However they will meet firm opposition. [quotation marks as received]

The government's spokesman concluded by saying that a bill on restructuring of the government organisations is under study after the ratification of which all problems regarding administrative purges in such organisation will be solved.

AFP Report

NC071226 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 7 Jan (AFP)--Official spokesman Behzad Nabavi today rejected for the moment any transfer of some of the 52 American hostages to Algeria in the event that Washington met only part of Iran's demands governing their release. Mr Nabavi reiterated at a press conference that the hostages will be put on trial if Iran is convinced that the United States does not want to comply with parliament's conditions for freeing the hostages and is instead trying to buy time.

He said he could not say whether the three hostages recently transferred from the Foreign Ministry are with the other 49 hostages. Their place of detention is secret, he added.

Asked about yesterday's statement by Prime Minister Mohammed 'Ali Raja'i about participation of the Algerian good offices in the affair Mr Nabavi said Algeria had not made any commitment going beyond its role as intermediary. "The Algerian Government," he said, "has handed the Iranian authorities a communique taking into account the positions of both sides on the hostage question. But that does not mean that Algeria has made a proposal off its own bat." Algeria had also agreed that U.S. financial guarantees to Tehran be deposited in its care, he said.

Mr Nabavi, Iran's chief negotiator in the hostages affairs, did not reply when asked to confirm reports that Iran had accepted the principle of the latest U.S. offer on the hostages. He did say however that "once the problem has been clarified, I shall tell you what has happened."

An informed source meanwhile reported "progress" in the Algerian-mediated U.S.-Iranian talks. But it was pointed out that Tehran had not yet received the U.S. response to Tehran's most recent request for clarification.

NABAVI INTERVIEWED ON GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

LD071636 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0410 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Interview with Minister of State Behzad Nabavi conducted by unidentified reporter--recorded; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Nabavi, since you are minister of state and also the spokesman of the government, our Muslim and heroic people would like to know the country's general economic situation.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As our people are aware, our country's economy faced many difficulties following the overthrow of the shah's puppet regime. Because the economy of the shah's regime was completely and 1000 percent dependent, any thing we had in this country was somehow dependent on aliens. Our industry was totally dependent on foreigners; our agriculture was 100 percent dependent on foreigners also, and many of our basic commodities and foodstuff were dependent on foreign imports and goods. The only export we had was oil and our income was coming from oil. This was a great betrayal and the former regime betrayed us economically. It is the same for all puppet regimes, they transfer the economy of their country to a dependent economy and rely on a single product. The foreign powers buy that single product if they feel like it and whenever they decided, or they refuse to buy that product; and the price of that product is controlled by the universal trusts and cartels causing such a country to become fully dependent.

Following the victory of the revolution, of course, there should have been efforts to sever this dependence and improve our economic condition.

[Question] And it was not, in fact, a simple thing to do?

[Answer] Of course, it was by no means a simple job; in fact it was very difficult. Why? If we wanted to get our economy moving with the existing models, then it meant we had to strengthen our dependence. If we wanted to expand the existing industries we would have become more dependent for the raw materials, spare parts and other necessities of that industry. To improve comfort in every sector--for example, to supply more foodstuffs and commodities inside the country--we would have had to import more and in return become increasingly dependent on oil imports. [as heard]

Since our administrative system was the same sort of system as under the monarchy, its post-revolution output dropped in relation to prerevolution output. That is, our tax system was disrupted, although we did not have a very good tax system before either, and, in fact, oil was our only source of income. Well, these problems were made worse to some extent by the economic sanctions. Of course, it was very good; we believe the economic sanctions were useful for us because otherwise we would not have tried as hard to break our dependence. The economic sanctions made us think more about finding ways of breaking our dependence.

The problem of war has been added on top of all our difficulties, and it is natural that it has created a new series of ecoonomic difficulties. Solutions to these difficulties under review. There are short-term and mid-term solutions. We are aware and act in accordance with (?economic laws); we make decisions and publish them because (?the aim) is to reduce the government's expenditure. The main aim of these decision is to enhance the comfort of the oppressed class of society and the fair distribution of the country's economic resources country among the various strata.

There is also one long-term solution, for which we are presently engaged in planning, and that is to decide which way our economy should be directed. Should we keep all our assembly industries: Is it possible to close all the assembly industries? How should our industry grow? Should we improve our small cottage industries or the large and complex industries which are dependent on foreign assistance? How much of the former assembly industry could be saved? How much of it could be transformed?

For instance, will it be possible to convert the soft-drink factories, such as Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola, to fruit juice-making factories, and thus avoid paying franchise to foreign companies, as we still do. Although I have heard that some our committed [word indistinct] have not paid franchise for some time.

[Question] Mr Nabavi, please tell us whether discussion of economic issues in the present circumstances has harmed directions of Islamic publicity [as heard] and genuine revolutionary moves. This is because programs of economic mobilization have been interpreted by some groups as possibly being communist programs.

[Answer] Well, of course we must not pay attention to such talk. What the government has achieved has been implemented after consulting experts in Islamic economy; (?even) the final stages of decision making have been raised in the presence of the imam. The imam has not opposed these decisions and he considers none of them to be contrary to Islamic principles. People must not pay attention to these rumors. Such rumors might be spread whenever we decide to take a step forward in the interests of the oppressed, to distribute fairly the country's resources. The communists themselves only believe these as mere slogans and do not implement them. In countries where the communists are in power, they have in practice eliminated the capitalist and feudal class, so they say, but instead they have created new classes with the same characters and privileges. They might say things about fair distribution of wealth, but they have neither practiced it very much nor have they been successful. Of course, the slogan of fair distribution of wealth is more an Islamic slogan than a communist one. We have taken some steps on this basis, and this has been approved.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES CABINET ON GAINS, UNITY

JN080949 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Upon receiving the prime minister and ministers, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave his directives to Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and his Cabinet members.

In a speech he delivered during this meeting, the imam said: I have been told that great progress has been achieved on the battlefronts. I hope this progress will be continued.

Addressing the prime minister and Cabinet members, the nation's imam said: We must not lose the gains we have achieved, since what we have achieved, today exceeds in value what we lost yesterday. The leader imam praised the sacrifices made by our youths in the arenas of heroism and honor, saying: Offering sacrifices is natural for a people who desire to enjoy independence and freedom.

In another part of his speech, the imam praised the unity that has existed among the various sectors of the people ever since the success of our great Islamic revolution. He said: Our people are not separated from the government. Thus, anyone who aspires to harm our country will meet with failure.

His eminence cited the freedom that was brought about by the Islamic revolution, saying: today, Iran is not associated with any side. Indeed, this is the most valuable gift given by the Islamic Republic.

In conclusion, the imam praised the high morale enjoyed by the Iranian people, who aspire for martyrdom in defense of the Islamic homeland.

KHAMENE'I BRIEFS KHOMEYNI ON 5 JAN SUCCESSES

LD081126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] PARS reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, who has recently returned from the war fronts to Tehran, this morning was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Khamene'i met and held talks with the imam. According to the report, in the course of the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i briefed the imam of the umma [community of Islamic believers] in detail on the first phase of the successful operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran which were accomplished with 100 percent success on 5 January, and the imam also issued appropriate guidelines in various fields.

RAJA'I ADDRESSES MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS

LD072146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] The members of the Council of Ministers, the ambassadors and charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran posted abroad together with Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister, the acting minister of foreign affairs and a number of undersecretaries and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held a joint meeting at the Prime Ministry today. During this meeting, which was held with the aim of introducing the country's representatives to the members of the Council of Ministers, the acting minister of foreign affairs read a short report on the work of the 5-day seminar of ambassadors and charge d'affaires for the benefit of the prime minister and for other members of the Council of Ministers.

According to PARS, during this session Mr Raja'i gave a short address in connection with the need to bring in changes and developments more in line with the Islamic revolution in Iranian Embassies abroad. He said: If we wanted to shackle ourselves to past regulations and standards we would undoubtedly be unable to fulfill our revolutionary mission abroad. Armed with a revolutionary course we should make a principled reappraisal of our embassies' working style. Our embassies should be conducted in such a manner as to enable a person who enters them to think that he is in Iran's house or the home of an Iranian person.

The prime minister added: These changes should be commensurate with the Islamic revolution and our ideology. This task could only be carried out by us for one cannot expect any non-Iranian individual to carry out such a task.

Following Mr Raja'i's speech a number of ambassadors present at the session spoke about the manner in which their missions abroad carry out their activities.

Meeting Report

LD071902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report a number of Cabinet members, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran posted abroad, and representative of the foreign relations committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly held a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning and held a discussion and exchange of views about the overall principles of the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the meeting Mr Nematzadeh, the minister of industries and mines, spoke about industrial relations between Iran and other countries and about reviewing joint industrial projects involving Iran and friendly countries. Then a group of Cabinet members discussed and exchanged views about the trips by officials and representatives of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to foreign countries, particularly those on the continents of Africa and Asia who have adopted a friendly stance toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

BANI-SADR CONFERS WITH RED CRESCENT SUPERVISOR

LD071418 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Dr Behzadnia, the supervisor of the Red Crescent Society, met and conferred with Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president, in a city in Khuzetan this morning.

According to PARS, during this meeting the supervisor of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic submitted a report to the president on what had been done regarding housing for those made homeless by the war and on the conclusion of activities related to the war camp installations in Fasa, Jiroft, Borazjan, Esfahan, Sarab-e Nilufar and Shahrud and their transfer to the governor-general's office for continued supervision of the homeless.

BANI-SADR VISITS ARTILLERY COMMAND AT FRONT

LD072100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, this afternoon acquainted himself with the way in which the valiant, Muslim Iranian forces are conducting operations on one of the war fronts.

During this visit, accompanied by Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the air force, after supervising and studying the operations by the combatants of the revolution the president visited the front's artillery command headquarters. There the commander of the artillery center told the president how the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are carrying out their tasks and operations.

MASHHAD DEMONSTRATION SAID TO SUPPORT BANI-SADR

NC080819 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (AFP)--The Iranian daily paper founded by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today reported a demonstration in his favour by tens of thousands of people in the eastern city of Mashhad, following Iran's Gulf war offensive against Iraqi forces launched last Monday. The demonstration, [words indistinct], followed a speech at a barracks by the Supreme Court president, Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, which praised the offensive but did not mention Mr Bani-Sadr, according to the ISLAMIC REVOLUTION paper. A soldier at the barracks who got up and shouted "Bani-Sadr be blessed" was ordered to keep quiet, the paper said. But then the audience left the hall, the soldiers took to the streets, and the demonstration began.

Mr Bani-Sadr is also the Iranian Armed Forces commander in chief. Mashhad is 1,000 kms (600 miles) east of Tehran.

RESISTANCE TO IRAQI REGIME, FIGHTING IN BASRA

JN080846 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Arrivals in Dubayy from Iraq have reported that the infidel Ba'thist regime is forcing the people to join the so-called People's Army in Iraq. The Iraqi people, however, have been using various pretexts to avoid joining the so-called army.

In another development, the arrivals said that the Iraqi mojahed of the Ad-Da'wah Party attacked with a machinegun a personnel carrier of the so-called People's Army on a Basra street near the Bab Az-Zubayr gas station. The attack was launched when the carrier parked for refuelling. The Iraqi mojahed was martyred after successfully performing his task.

The arrivals added that the Iraqi regime's mercenaries are looting the houses of the citizens who have been forced to leave their houses in Al-Faw and Al-Muthanna. The mercenaries say that these properties are considered booty that should be used in the war against Iran.

Citing the arrivals, reports from Dubayy said that the Basra citizens are not heeding the orders of the agent central government in Baghdad. The arrivals added that slogans against Saddam and the ruling Ba'th party have been posted on buildings in Basra. Also, the statements and leaflets of the Islamic parties are being circulated among the people who decline to cooperate with Saddam's mercenaries.

The arrivals said that three Basra mayors were replaced within 1 month. Since nobody has so far managed to run the city's affairs, the Iraqi regime was forced to appoint one of its Ba'thist mercenaries, though this mercenary is helpless and powerless.

The arrivals said that the Ba'th Party office in Basra has been attacked three times so far. The Muslim mojahedin managed to hold the Basra police post for 3 consecutive days. The arrivals added that Basra is controlled at night by the Muslim mojahedin.

The arrivals pointed out that all the military and military positions in Al-'Amarah have been subjected to the Iranian Air Force fighter planes as well as to fedayeen operations by the Muslim mojahedin in Iraq.

YUGOSLAV MUSLIMS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR IRAN

GF071801 Zahedan International Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Excerpts] According to a report from the SFRY capital, Belgrade, received last week, the representative of the Friday imam of the SFRY city of Zagreb, Ismat [word indistinct] met with the Iranian charge d'affaires in Belgrade and conveyed to him the support of 100,000 Muslims of the city of Zagreb for the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He said that the Muslims of the city strongly condemned the Iraqi aggression against Iran.

The report added that the representative of the Friday imam of Zagreb said that the central position of the Saudi Monarchy as the leader of Islam has now shifted to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Muslims of the SFRY are well aware of the aggression of the Iraqi Ba'thist Government and have offered to fight alongside their Iranian brothers against the infidel Iraqi Ba'thist government.

ISLAMIC LEADERS URGED TO BAR SADDAM FROM SUMMIT

JN071440 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Iranian Government's declaration that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to attend the forthcoming Islamic conference summit on the condition that Iraqi regime President Saddam Husayn does not attend derives from Iran's principled stand on the unjust aggression launched by the agent Iraqi regime against Iran's Islamic revolution over 3 months ago. This stand means that the mere presence of Iran in the Islamic conference's halls would be an implicit approval of Saddam's crimes against the two Muslim fraternal Iraqi and Iranian peoples as expressed in his treacherous military aggression against Iran. This aggression has afflicted the two fraternal peoples simultaneously. Such an Iranian presence would also mean the granting of legitimacy to and the acceptance of aggression, and an implicit readiness to sit at one table to negotiate with the atheist Saddam, which Iran has rejected time after time.

Accordingly, the recent official stand declared by the government of the Islamic revolution is a frank, principled, firm and unarguable policy based upon the requirements of our Islamic world today. The first of these requirements is the confrontation of anyone who tries to distort the reputation of our Islamic world and of the Muslims, as Saddam Husayn did through his aggression against a Muslim and fraternal neighbor like Iran. Proceeding from this fact and from the brave stand taken by the government of the Islamic revolution--its frank declaration that it is ready to take part in the Islamic Conference on the condition that Saddam does not attend, due to Iran's concern for Islamic solidarity and unity--the Islamic states' leaders, in turn, given their legitimate duties to preserve the unity of the Islamic ranks, are called upon to prevent aggressor Saddam from attending the Islamic summit conference. By doing so, first, they will prove the sincerity of their intentions, their concern for preserving Islamic unity and their support for the Islamic causes in deed and not merely through slogans and second, they will give the Islamic revolution a chance to move with complete freedom on both the Islamic and international levels with the objective of supporting the Muslims' major issues, led by that of holy Jerusalem, beloved Palestine and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, especially since Iran has now become the center of weight in the Islamic world and on the international level as well. It has also become the driving power behind the real Islamic forces in the region.

We hope that the Islamic heads of state will declare their official public response to the stand declared by the Islamic revolution's government as to the conditions under which it can participate in the Islamic summit conference. Iran's stand derives from its concern for preserving the unity of the Islamic ranks and from its desire to consolidate the solidarity of all Muslims.

KEYHAN: IRAN SHOULD BE SUSPICIOUS OF SOVIET AID

LD071457 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jan 81 p 10

[Commentary by J. Sa'adat: "Independence is the Essence of the Islamic Revolution"]

[Excerpts] The issue of arms purchases from the Soviet Union as a means of confronting the great Satan has recently been raised. The connection between this issue and the essence of the Iranian revolution within the context of the slogan "Neither East nor West" has taken on a most important and noteworthy aspect.

The Soviet Union is in a dilemma; on the one hand there is the path of world domination and the great Satan, and on the other there is the straight path, that of the underprivileged. By stopping arms supplies to Iraq, the Soviet Union has shown that it has recoiled from treading the first of these paths.

The Position of the Soviet Union is Similar to That of America

Meanwhile we see each day that, in spite of increased pressure from the great Satan and its West European agents, the Soviet Union and its satellites in the Middle East, in Eastern Europe and Latin America have extended the hand of assistance to the revolution, however, there must be no shortcomings in the Islamic movement as regards the preservation of the character and the original content of the revolution, i.e. true independence and the achievement of the slogans "Neither East nor West". In addition, with the support of the mobilized masses, Islam and the revolution, the Islamic movement must seek to take advantage of conflict between the powers. A first step in taking up the Soviet Union's promise of friendship would be to make use of the transit routes provided by our northern neighbor, in order to fight economic sanctions. The gap between the great Satan and the Soviet Union is favorable for us, however, it would be naive to accept that the Soviet Union has repented without taking a look at its past record of peaceful coexistence with American imperialism. As the imam has said, the Soviet Union is a country which America has managed to manipulate, and in the slogan "Neither China, nor the Soviet Union, nor America" the anger which the masses directed toward those countries was due to the similarity they saw in the methods and deeds of these three powers. In fact, it was cooperation between America and the Soviet Union which resulted in the anger of the Iranian underprivileged toward their northern neighbor, since for many years the Iranian masses suffered deep wounds from Soviet-American collusion.

Is It Right To Buy Arms From the Soviet Union?

The similarity in the positions of the Soviet Union and America at this glorious and historic juncture of the Islamic revolution is a relatively insignificant aspect, but it must be recognized that they have adopted similar positions toward many of the popular movements throughout the world. During the course of its ongoing revolution, the Muslim community of Iran has passionately shouted "Neither East nor West" and has well understood that, in spite of the cold war between the two powers in the political arena and in confrontation with the peoples, there has been much wheeling and dealing and collusion.

The question that now arises is this: Given the Soviet Union's record, and the many years during which its policy resembled that of America, since Khrushchev announced peaceful coexistence and free competition, how can it be said to be in our people's interests to receive arms supplied by that country? In practical terms, has the Soviet Union given up its common stance with the great Satan? Without doubt, until the Soviet Union rectifies its position vis-a-vis the underprivileged and world domination, the Islamic revolution must not take its promise of friendship seriously.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 366, 367

366: 6-7 Jan Clashes

LD071815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Communique 366 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Combatant, faithful nation of Iran. The pure-hearted combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the self-sacrificing forces of the guards corps and other popular mobilization forces are extremely grateful for the dear compatriots' expressions of affection, ardor and enthusiasm in connection with the latest victory scored by the armed forces of Islam. With the help of God final victory will be won by Islam and the Muslim nation of Iran. Here is an account of part of the activities and the way fighting continued on the battlefields during the past 24 hours:

1. Yesterday, 6 January, the combatants of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked Iraq's Fakkah border post and destroyed the post's communication aerials and installations. Also the same self-sacrificing combatants in another attack intensely strafed the duped troops of the mercenary Saddam on the Bustan-Halfayah axis, destroying 14 light and heavy vehicles and 3 enemy tanks, and killing or wounding large numbers of the forces of the Iraqi Army; and on the Tala-ye Kusht highway they destroyed large numbers of enemy trucks and vehicles.

Yesterday, the combatants of the air forces also attacked enemy forces in the Hamid region and inflicted appreciable losses and casualties on the enemy.

2. Last night, the combatants of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Gilan-e Gharb front opened artillery fire on enemy positions, utterly destroying 2 enemy vehicles and 1 personnel carrier and killing 10 Iraqi Army servicemen and wounding a number of them. Similarly, during this morning's operations, on 7 January, with intense artillery fire they also destroyed two enemy tanks. During these operations our own forces suffered minor losses and casualties. Throughout today on all fronts in the western part of our country battle continued to rage between our zealous troops and those of the mercenary Saddam.

3. Yesterday, along the Darkhovin-Mared axis on the Abadan front, the self-sacrificing men of the aviation forces of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Airborne Division, attacked the mercenary forces of the Iraqi Army, destroying 4 enemy ammunition trucks, 2 APC's, 2 loaders, 1 Katyusha missile launcher, 2 trucks and 1 antiaircraft trench and killing some 30 of Saddam's mercenaries.

4. Yesterday, thanks to artillery fire by the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran along the Darkhovin-Mared axis, one enemy tank and one mortar launcher were set ablaze and destroyed.

5. Yesterday, thanks to artillery fire by our own forces along the Mahshahr-Abadan axis, two enemy trenches were destroyed and a number of enemy armored equipment was damaged.

Then, in order to make up for the losses suffered by the Iraqi mercenary personnel, the enemies of the revolution this morning subjected the residential areas in the cities of Abadan, Ahvaz and Dezful to artillery and long-range missile fire; and in Dezful 6 houses were destroyed. As a result of enemy artillery fire yesterday and today 11 of our dear compatriots were martyred in Dezful and 26 were wounded.

6. As a result of a clash between the enemy forces, guards corps and Kurdish Muslim peshmargas on the one hand and the counterrevolutionaries on the other in the Marivan region one motor generator, two gas-propelled vehicles, one oil tanker, one Shahbaz jeep and a quantity of miscellaneous equipment were captured from the counterrevolutionaries.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

367: Abadan, Ahvaz Fighting

LD080444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0337 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Communique 367 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim and combative nation of Iran, some of the struggles and sacrifices of the fighters of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, carried out in the operations and the courageous battle of 7 January with Saddam's mercenaries on the Ahvaz front, are brought to your attention:

1. The combatants of the army Airborne Division dealt the following blows at the mercenaries of the Iraqi Army: On the Abadan front they entirely destroyed six concrete trenches of the enemy artillery and in a lightening and surprise attack killed or wounded a large number of the troops of the Iraqi Army. On the Ahvaz front several tanks and personnel carriers, one artillery position, some trucks carrying ammunition, 5 ammunition dumps, three fuel tankers, some light and heavy vehicles, and single and group trenches belonging to the enemy were set on fire and destroyed. In these operations about 200 mercenaries of the Iraqi Army were killed or wounded. Meanwhile (?one) of our helicopters was damaged. Its pilots, with the help of God, returned safely to their base.

2. The combatants of the ground forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dealing heavy and deadly blows, inflicted the following losses and damage on the enemy on 7 January: They destroyed 19 tanks, 5 field guns, 1 antiaircraft gun, 1 loader, 1 ammunition dump and 3 trucks. They killed or wounded about 90 of Saddam's mercenaries. In these successful operations two undamaged tanks were taken from the enemy and one of Saddam's mercenaries was captured by our forces. Also one aggressive MiG belonging to the Iraqi Army was shot down and destroyed by our air defense forces and its two pilots were captured by the combatants of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI LOSSES ON VARIOUS FRONTS REPORTED

LD081112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] According to a PARS correspondent in Ahvaz, in continuation of the valiant assaults of the combatants of Islam on the soldiers of mercenary Saddam yesterday, in Farsiab region on the Ahvaz front, seven enemy tanks and two vehicles were destroyed and their personnel were killed or wounded.

Another report says that in the Howeyzeh region on the Susangerd front as well, two enemy tanks and one troop carrier carrying misled enemy personnel were destroyed. According to a report received from Dezful, warrior corpsmen, as a result of minelaying operations in Musiam region on the Fakkeh front, have succeeded in destroying one Iraqi vehicle and killing its personnel.

IRAQIS CAPTURED IN OFFENSIVE BROUGHT TO TEHRAN

LD072116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2044 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] The first batch of Iraqi servicemen captured during the victorious attack launched by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in Tehran by train at noon today amid a display of ardent feelings by Tehran's citizens who had gathered at the railway station.

According to a Central News Bureau correspondent's dispatch, during the victorious operations launched by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday this week around the Ahvaz fronts some 2,000 Iraqi troops were taken prisoner, a group of whom were brought to Tehran today. Our correspondent's report says: A great many of these Iraqi prisoners of war lack complete uniforms. This is because these individuals had taken off their uniforms in order to hide anonymously in the region and subsequently return to Iraq.

Welcoming Message for POW's

LD080952 Tehran PARS in English 0745 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--With the arrival and disembarking of 495 Iraqi POW's at Tehran's state railway station yesterday morning, one Iranian officer read a welcoming message for them in Persian and an Arabic translation was read to the prisoners. The following is a translation from the Persian:

"You Iraqi soldiers who have been beguiled by a mercenary agent like Saddam Husayn are now in the community of your Iranian Muslim brothers, they are the people who are crusading for the cause of God and who are defending their Islamic revolution. We are fully aware that you are fighting us only because you have been coerced and threatened by Saddam Husayn to do so. We are confident that you did not participate in this war of your own free will. No doubt there were many among you who looked forward to the opportunity of being received by your Muslim brothers here and thereby freeing yourselves from the claws of Saddam's executioners.

"Dear Iraqi brothers! You are now in an Islamic country and you are now gaining an intimate insight into genuine Islamic conduct as demonstrated by your brothers here, and as was earlier demonstrated by their fight against the aggressor forces. Throughout our battles you have seen that our fighters have never bombarded your cities or inflicted the slightest damage on non-military centres. Throughout the war your Iranian brothers never used surface to surface missiles to destroy the homes of innocent Iraqis. They never have used such weapons to massacre the people of Iraq. They have never copied the cruel acts of your mercenary and treacherous leaders who have massacred our innocent people in the cities of Dezful, Khorramabad, and Kermanshah. They have never killed their brethern, womenfolk or children. We have never tortured you and we have never acted in a cruel and savage way towards your soldiers here; we have fought like men and we will continue to do so in the future and with pride.

"Our brave soldiers are like angry lions in the battlefields but when it comes to their conduct towards prisoners of war they treat them as their brothers. Now that you are here in Iran you can regard this country as your own home and use this opportunity to gain an intimate insight into the Islamic revolution of Iran. We would like to assure you that the Iraqi people who once destroyed the influence of British colonialism will rise up again to throw Saddam's rotten corpse out of the country.

We are confident that the Iraqis will soon rise up to build a free and independent Iraq. We are also confident that it will not be long before Saddam will be overthrown as a result of his aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and it will not be long before his reactionary supporters go the way of their predecessors such as the deceased shah.

"May the nations of Iran and Iraq become ever more united!

"May the puppet regime of Saddam Husayn soon be overthrown!

"May Muslim solidarity for the liberation of Palestine grow ever stronger!"

AIR RAIDS, SHELLING CONTINUE ON ABADAN FRONT

LD071718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Around luchtime today, two helicopters of the Airborne Division flew over enemy positions in the vicinity of the Abadan pasteurized milk factory and bombed part of the trenches and armored equipment of Saddam's mercenaries. A report by the PARS correspondent from the Abadan front indicates that following this bombing smoke and flames from the destroyed tanks and vehicles of Saddam's aggressive forces were visible around this region for hours. We have no accurate report about the scale of losses inflicted on the enemy.

On the basis of the same report, Iraqi mercenaries opened long-range artillery fire on residential districts of Abadan today. Several residential houses were damaged as a result.

Latest reports from the PARS correspondent, communicated at 1645 today, indicate that artillery fire between the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the one hand, and the Iraqi aggressors, on the other, along Abadan fronts, is still continuing.

AHVAZ CLERGY CONGRATULATE KHOMEYNI ON OFFENSIVE

GF071833 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] The assembly of the committed Ahvaz clergymen sent a telegram to Imam Khomeyni. The following is the text of the telegram: In His exalted name. To the auspicious presence of his eminence the great Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, after presenting our greetings we offer our congratulations on yesterday's offensive launched by the fighters of Islam against the aggressive Ba'thist forces, which was a dazzling and great victory for this warning Muslim nation and for the enlightened presence of the imam of the nation. Of course, the prophet-like guidance of your eminence is always the harbinger of the hope of all people in general and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic in particular, that God willing, one day our Islamic homeland will be purged of the filth of the infidels and lackeys of colonialism and the supremacy of God, not only in Iran but in the whole world and the greatness and leadership of the vicegerent of the imam to come will be established. We pray to God for his eminence's long life and continuation of his leadership. Prayers and blessings.

AHVAZ REPORTS 7 JAN AIR RAID RED ALERT

GF071300 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1255 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] This is Ahvaz, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners, the siren you are about to hear denotes the red alert condition; an air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

AHVAZ OIL DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

GF071707 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Announcement by Oil Distribution Center of Ahvaz--date not given]

[Text] In order to insure the just distribution of kerosene among the respected citizens of Ahvaz, all oil depots and retail centers of Khorrampur near the Abadan intersection are obliged to take steps to provide oil to the residents as of Thursday, 8 January, against the ration cards for consumer goods or red cards, once every 10 days according to the following schedule:

Families with 5 members--20 liters each time.
Families with 6-10 members--30 liters each time.
Families with 11-15 members--40 liters.
Families with more than 15 members--45 liters.

The cooperation of the noble and muslim residents of Ahvaz will be appreciated.

IRANIANS REPORTED ADVANCING ON WESTERN FRONT

LD071847 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1642 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] PARS reports from the Dehloran-Arikeh axis that as the result of yesterday's clashes in this region between the heroic forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the deceived forces of the mercenary Saddam from 0600 until 1730 today, the fighting forces of the units stationed in the region destroyed one 130-mm gun and one rangefinder situated to the east of Eynikohosh. According to a report we have received, one enemy company which tried to shell our positions in Murmuri region with artillery was confronted by the vigilant forces of Islam equipped with light weapons, but our forces enjoyed effective artillery support and the enemy was forced to flee, leaving behind many killed and having suffered heavy losses.

According to a statement by some fighting officers who participated in this clash, more than 150 of the aggressors were killed or wounded. In this clash, 3 tanks, 3 vehicles and 2 personnel carriers belonging to the mercenary forces of Saddam as well as 3 of their personnel carriers and 2 of their tanks were captured. Also, 9 deceived Iraqis including 1 Iraqi major were captured by the heroic forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; today this group was taken to Tehran.

According to this report, the positions of enemy tanks, ammunition and equipment in a region called Tarh-e Damdari [literally, "Animal Husbandry Project"] burned for hours as the result of the effective artillery fire of the heroic forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian forces, due to their complete coordination, managed to completely crush and scatter the forces of mercenary Saddam in this region. In this clash, 5 of our forces were martyred and 18 were injured.

According to a PARS report, the latest reports from the west of the country state that fighting between the self-sacrificing forces of Islam and the deceived soldiers of Saddam Tikriti continued in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahar, Qasr-e Shirin, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, Zeleh-Zar, Darvaru, Kani-Shahr, Shur-e Shirin fronts and the heights of Konjancham, Amirabad, Sarney and Ilam. According to the same report, the fighters of Islam on all fronts, including in the Gilan-e Charb and Sahab fronts, valiantly fought against the mercenary enemy and in many cases continued their advances. In today's clashes on these fronts altogether five enemy tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed; flames from the burnt-out tanks could be seen from afar for many hours.

The same report says that in the Gilan-e Gharb front hand-to-hand fighting still continues between the forces of truth and falsehood. The fighters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic revolution guards, gendarmerie and irregular popular forces continue their heroic fight against the forces of blasphemy.

A PARS correspondent, quoting an informed source from the warfront, reported that advances on the Gilan-e Gharb front were to such an extent that heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy forces and a large number of their tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles were destroyed. The same informed source put the number of enemy losses at about 83. This figure includes the number of enemy losses from yesterday afternoon up to 1500 today.

The Ilam deputy in the Islamic Consultative Assembly who, together with the governor of Eslamabad, inspected the fronts in Gilan-e Gharb for 12 hours told the PARS correspondent: The forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the moment control the Hajian Pass. He added: The tanks of the Islamic Republic of Iran have advanced to a great extent and, at the moment, hand-to-hand and face-to-face fighting is continuing in Chahar-Band and Darvaru between the Iranian forces and the Iraqi mercenaries.

The PARS report also states that this morning one unit of guards brothers stationed in Zeleh-Zar, together with another unit stationed in Sumar, discovered about 450 antitank mines and more than 1,100 antipersonnel mines and neutralized them. In this way, a vast area of strategic positions in the region was cleared.

REPORTAGE ON 6-7 JAN SITUATION IN SHARAZ

Draftees Called Up

GF071700 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Communique Issued by Shiraz Gendarmerie Regiment--date not given]

[Text] All college graduate draftees born between 21 March 1959 and 20 March 1961, who have graduated in March and April 1980 with a grade between 15.3 and 15.86, and who have received draft papers from the Shiraz Gendarmerie and [names indistinct] and have registered with the Shiraz Gendarmerie on 3-6 January, should report by 10 January to Shiraz Gendarmerie Regiment for assignment to duty.

Majlis Deputy's Speech Protested

GF071758 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Text] Following the speech by a Majlis deputy yesterday to a gathering of Larestan citizens, a group of Lar citizens protested against his speech. The protesters, carrying photographs of the leader of the revolution--the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran--and of the president--the commander in chief of the armed forces--announced their complete support for the position of Velayat-e Faqih and that of the president and demonstrated in support of the commander in chief of the armed forces. The group, upon the request of the Lar Friday imam, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Abdol 'Ali Ayatolahi, ended their demonstration and dispersed without incident.

Montazeri Attends Seminar

GF081146 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] The Velayat-e Faqih [Supremacy of the Jurisconsult] seminar opened in Shiraz this morning with a message by the great canonist His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri. In his message to the participants of the seminar, which was convened at the initiative of the Islamic revolution guards, Ayatollah Montazeri said: The enemies of the Islamic revolution, following the defeats of their local plots and their direct and indirect military attacks, have started a new and expanded effort to destroy our revolution. This plot consists of organized propaganda against the committed and self-sacrificing clergy and of crushing the noble and faithful characters who play the main role in furthering this deep Islamic movement in the present circumstances. The United States knows well that if our Muslim nation, the revolutionary organizations, and the zealous army and clergy are under the leadership of the Imam Khomeyni, [words indistinct] as his eminence said. (?The United States) cannot do a damn thing. Therefore, it is trying to find their weaknesses and shortcomings and parade this or even create artificial shortages and weaknesses through their internal lackeys to divert public opinion.

The message also said: Today the danger of diverting the revolution from its main path is greater than the threat of an enemy military attack. If our revolution follows its path and the elements who are [word indistinct] to our revolution do not interfere in the destiny of the revolution and our martyr-nurturing people, victory on the foreign front will be certain. [passage indistinct]

Religious Anniversary March

GF071638 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] The combatant and faithful Shirazi citizens held a special march with indescribable zeal at the same time as the rest of the nation and in order to renew their alliance with the imam of the nation--the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the march, which also included mournings and was attended by tens of thousands of Shirazi citizens as well as by revolutionary organizations, Islamic societies and employees of national organizations and universities on the invitation of the Friday imam of the city, for the first time only photographs of the imam of the nation could be seen. There were no other photographs, as was requested by the Fars governor general who said that we only have one leader and will only carry one photograph in our march. The glorious march of the Shirazi citizens, which was held on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of the prophet and martyrdom of Imam Hasan, started from the holy shrine of Shah-e Cheragh. The Shiraz Friday imam, His Eminence Ayatollah Dastgheyb, in his message, while offering condolences to Shirazi citizens, stressed obedience to the decrees of the imam of the ages. He added that [words indistinct] not only means that you should obey all orders but also means obedience to the government since the imam of the nation does not allow idolatry to rule us. The Shirazi citizens, led by the combatant clergy and the governor general and other authorities, then started their grand march. In the march the citizens chanted "Velayat-e Fawih is imam's strong logic." Shirazi fighters also held a funeral for martyr (Sageli) who was martyred by the Iraqi heathen Ba'thists.

At the end of the march unity prayers were held in Shiraz Dar Al-Rahmeh cemetary and were led by the Shiraz Friday imam. The Friday imam also made a speech and then the marchers' resolution was read. The complete report of this march and the text of the speech of Shiraz's Firday imam were broadcast last night from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic--Shiraz center.

RADIO IRAN ON U.S. SOVIET PARTITION OF IRAN

NC071418 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Following previous reports on the concentration of units of the Soviet Army on the Iranian borders, it was reported last night that the Soviet Union has sent more troops to Iran's northern border and is preparing for an attack against Iran. Previous reports stated that the Russians have set up a number of military bridges on the border river of Aras to be used by their troops for crossing into Iran.

Political observers say that the possibility exists that America and the Soviet Union have agreed to divide Iran between themselves and to give a slice to Iraq too. These observers say that the Soviet Union is now preparing to occupy nine of Iran's provinces: the provinces of East and West Azerbayjan, Kordestan, Zanjan, Gilan, Mazandaran, Khorasan, Semnan and possibly the central province. The remainder of Iran except for the part to be given to Iraq, will go to the United States. These observers see a connection in the Soviet military movements on the Iranian borders with recent remarks by Henry Kissinger, adviser to President-elect Ronald Reagan. Kissinger had said that should the clergy want to put the American hostages on trial, the American Army will enter Iranian territory.

The Soviet Union has prepared itself so that should this happen it can, on the basis of the sinister and colonialist 1921 pact, occupy Iran's northern provinces. In order to prepare the ground for such interventions the Tudeh Party and other communist groups are insisting that the hostages be tried. If these imperialist plots are fulfilled, Iran will be completely (?destroyed) and its name will be erased from the geographical maps. These serious dangers stem from the clergy's policies of kidnapping and exporting their disgraceful revolution. (?This is harming) our homeland.

CLERGY, RAFSANJANI ACCUSED OF EMBEZLEMENT

JN041548 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1305 GMT 3 Jan 81

[Station commentary: "History Repeats Itself"]

[Text] Two or three years before the filthy Pahlavi regime in Iran collapsed, the rich in Iran began to withdraw their money from Iranian banks and deposit it in European banks. As a result of these deposits abroad, the levels of internal bank funds were decreasing under the rule of the shah's regime.

Exactly 2 months before the previous regime collapsed, the millionaires and pillars of the unjust Mohammad Reza Shah began to prepare themselves to deposit the millions they had stolen from the people's money in external banks. These crimes had taken place under the shah's regime for over 50 years, until the criminals of the Islamic republic took over and continued to pursue the same course.

Last year, large sums of money were given to the accounts of the hojjat ol-eslams and others on the pretext of aiding Islamic societies and councils abroad; there was no shame at such big thefts. These thefts went on without the knowledge of any officials in Bazargan's government. The Central Bank, however, published lists of these sums of money, pretending that they were relligious donations. The authorities shamelessly claimed that the money was going to the aid of our Muslim brothers preaching Islam in Europe and America.

More sums of money, estimated at millions of tomans, were discovered to have been withdrawn in the name of Hashemi Rafsanjani, the so-called speaker of the Islamic parliament. HIs collaborators began to defend his good intentions, claiming that the money in his name would be used to buy supplies and arms for the revolutionary guards and that it had been withdrawn from the Central Bank for this sole purpose. Nevertheless, everyone is now sure that the crooks of the Islamic justice system, such as the Islamic Majlis speaker, are withdrawing money in the name of the revolutionary guards [words indistinct].

The regime pretends that supplies for the revolutionary guards cannot be procured inside the country but must be bought abroad. They want to remove money from the country, using the pretext of buying supplies for the revolutionary guards. Bani-Sadr is the commander in chief of the armed forces, but he has no authority in such matters.

If the reactionary regime of the clergy continues, the Iranian individual will be annihilated. Time will reveal the fate of the Iranians in the hands of the Iranian clergy. God help us.

NVOI CONDEMNS FRANCE FOR ANTI-IRANIAN ACTIVITIES

TA072025 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "A Dangerous Center of the Counterrevolution"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Along with the intensification of the preparations for aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran by U.S. imperialism and the plots of the counterrevolution--from the liberal bourgeois and remnants of the former regime to extreme leftists and rightists--against the revolution adn the creation of tension and chaos in the country, the escaped counterrevolutionaries abroad have increased their attempts and endeavors.

We are aware that one of the centers of conspiracy and subversion of the counterrevolution is Paris, capital of France. The main headquarters of the remnants of Savak and the imperial regime is in this city, and it is from here that certain treacherous elements such as Bakhtiar, Oveysi, Ashraf, Zahedi and others plan their anti-Iranian schemes and direct their agents. Naturally all these anti-Iranian activities in Paris are necessarily carried out with the knowledge and consent of the French Government.

Reliable sources report that the United States--this sworn enemy of the Iranian people--has ordered Shahpur Bakhtiar, the deceased shah's last prime minister, to hasten in mobilizing the various groups of escaped Iranian counterrevolutionaries. It is according to this order that the traitor Bakhtiar is feverishly organizing the escaped remnants of the military shah-lovers, whose hands are stained to the armpit with the blood of the liberated people of our homeland, under the banner of the Brzezinskis and the Carters.

It should not be left unsaid that in these satanic acts, we deeply regret that the French Government is playing an unauspicious role, despite that country's public opinion, and has provided all the necessary facilities for these anti-Iranian bands. According to French newspapers the government of this country has placed one of its barracks--situated 45km from Paris--at the disposal of escaped officers and other military personnel and Savakists of the satanic regime and Iranian shah-lovers, so that they could undergo the necessary training and preparation to carry out conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We are all aware of the fact that the principle organizer and mobilizer of the activity of the counterrevolution abroad is U.S. imperialism and its espionage and intelligence services. One cannot and should not overlook the fact, however, that its Western and imperialist allies, including the French Government, are partners and participants with U.S. imperialism in all the anti-Iranian activities.

Today all are aware that after the overthrow of the accursed shah's regime, the French Government had and continues to have close cooperation with America in all the attempts of U.S. imperialism against the Iranian revolution. This fact should not astonish anyone for it emanates from the imperialist nature of the French Government. This is a lesson for a number of government officials who have contented themselves with the vain thought that, allegedly, there is a difference between the nature of U.S. imperialism and the imperialism of Western countries.

During the era of the provisional government of Mr Bazargan and after that, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran were aware of the details of the active participation of the French Government in anti-Iranian plots and of its support for the escapted counterrevolutionaries, but they never once told the people anything about this nor did they protest to the French Government. On the contrary, all the efforts of the executors of the step-by-step policy--the Bazargans, the Yazdis and the Qotbzadehs--were aimed at isolating the revolution from its real friends, namely the socialist countries that support the Iranian revolution, and at establishing close relations with Western countries, including France.

Without doubt the duty of the planners of our country's foreign policy was and continues to be to safeguard the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, in the past, whether during Ebrahim Yazdi's tenure or during Qotbzadeh's tenure, we all observed that at least through diplomatic means no measure whatsoever was taken against the unjust interventions and the imperialist and hostile methods of, for example, the French or British Governments. However, as much as possible and in the name of defending the Afghan bandit counterrevolutionaries--the importers of narcotics and weapons into Iran--they used and continue to use as targets for their unjust attacks the countries that are the friends of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and especially the Soviet Union.

Our nation's revolution is exposed to serious danger. The people of our homeland are ready to confront the plots of the enemies with the utmost power. The people expect government officials, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, to protest in the name of the Iranian nation the anti-Iranian activities of the French Government and to seek help from France's progressive opinion in exposing this policy.

NVOI DENOUNCES GULF 'MUTUAL SECURITY PACT'

TA071923 [Editorial Report] The National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 7 January carried a commentary entitled "Fresh Steps to Aggravate Conditions in Our Region" which said that a number of leaders of the regimes of the Persian Gulf region are encouraging the establishment of a so-called mutual security pact in the Persian Gulf area.

This pact is intended to struggle against national liberation movements in the countries of our region and also to liquidate the gains of our nation's revolution. The U.S. intends to patch together a pact with its agents under the pretext of certain imaginary threats aimed by the Soviet Union at the oil riches of the countries of the Persian Gulf. All are aware that such a claim is totally false because the Soviet Union has no military base in this region, and moreover, the Soviet Union possesses enough oil resources to supply itself while exporting to world markets. America, however, faces an energy crisis so it covets the oil of the Persian Gulf countries and is ready to occupy this area in order to continue the plundering its oil.

The executor of the plan for forming a U.S. pact is Saudi Arabia, which is also attempting to draw Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates into this pact. Oman has no need to be drawn into this pact, for the U.S. puppet Qabus has for a long time placed Oman's territory and the Hormuz Strait coasts at the disposal of the Pentagon, and has persistently aided the expansion of the U.S. military presence in this region. This U.S. military presence has not only posed a serious threat to the transport of oil to world markets, but also to the independence and security of all the littoral states of the Persian Gulf. However, if the military pact desired by the United States is formed, the Pentagon's military presence in the Persian Gulf will be stepped up and the danger of interference by the aggressor America in the internal affairs of the countries of this region will increase considerably. It is for this reason that public opinion and the region's anti-imperialist forces strongly condemn the formation of this pact planned by the United States and believe that the danger of this pact and the scheme of its planners and executors should be extensively exposed.

SRI LANKA

INDIAN, SRI LANKAN MINISTERS DISCUSS ECONOMICS

BK051123 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jan 81

[Text] Visiting Indian Finance Minister R. Venkataraman had 75 minutes of talks yesterday with Minister Ronnie de Mel centered on economic cooperation between the two countries. The two ministers will have another round of talks tomorrow after which they will sign an agreement providing for a new line of credit from India to Sri Lanka.

Venkataraman, who arrived yesterday morning on a 2-day official visit, has brought with him a special message from Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi which he will hand over to President Jayewardene tomorrow. The first minister of the present government of Mrs Gandhi to visit Sri Lanka, he will also meet Prime Minister Premadasa before leaving for home.

The two finance ministers in their talks yesterday discussed economic cooperation among South Asian countries. In the field of bilateral cooperation, Venkatakaraman and De Mel discussed promotion of joint ventures both inside and outside the free trade zone.

De Mel, briefing reporters after the talks, said they also discussed Indian assistance to the Sri Lanka Steel Corporation, the Industrial Development Board and the National Livestock Board. They considered increased facilities from India for technical assistance and training in the fields of sugar technology, fisheries and vocational training.

Welcoming the Indian minister, Ronnie de Mel said that cooperation between India and Sri Lanka was as old as history and would go on till the end of time. Both countries had many things in common and although governments changed, their friendship and cooperation would go on forever.

Venkataraman said it was a great pleasure for him to visit Sri Lanka with whom India has had the most cordial relations since time immemorial.

The Indian finance minister was today visiting the Mahaveli development area and Kandy.